

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [031] with the following amended paragraph:

[031] Passive RFID tags operate without a separate external power source and obtain operating power generated from the reader. Passive tags are consequently typically lighter than active tags, less expensive, and offer a long operational lifetime. Passive tags typically have shorter read ranges than active tags and require a higher-powered reader. Read-only tags are typically passive and [are] can be programmed with a unique set of data (usually 32 to 128 bits) that is typically predetermined at the time of manufacturing the tag. It is understood that passive read/write tags can also be employed consistent with the present teachings.

Please replace paragraph [050] with the following amended paragraph:

[050] According to various embodiments, the tube carrier 400 can contain a simplified RFID tag containing only an identifier number, which is cross-referenced to a table that contains information on the contents of particular [the] tubes 300 in the particular tube carrier 400. In various embodiments, the lookup table information is provided on removable, machine-readable media, such as CDROM. In various other embodiments, the lookup table information is provided in the form of a network-accessible, on-line database. In various ones of these embodiments, the lookup table information is encrypted either in an off-line CDROM-type form or in an on-line form.

Please replace paragraph [062] with the following amended paragraph:

[062] According to various embodiments, biological samples or reagents that are provided in the carriers described above are licensed separately from instruments designed to operate on the biological reagents. In various embodiments the instruments are coupled to a network (see e.g. Figure 11) that allows the instruments to communicate

over public and private networks with computer systems that are operated by or on behalf of the producers and/or licensors of the biological reagents. In various embodiments, reagent licenses can provide for the use of licensed biological reagents for a particular biological analysis on only licensed instruments. In various embodiments, instrument licenses can provide for the use of licensed instruments to carry out a particular biological analysis with only licensed reagents. Accordingly, an instrument can authenticate a biological reagent [reagents] based on, for example, a digital signature contained in the RFID tag associated with a particular consumable, if a particular user has a valid license. In [IN] various embodiments, the RFID tags can also be programmed to provide a one time use such that biological reagents cannot be refilled [with] for use with the same authentication.